## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01368 201442Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 /093 W -------201458Z 103200 /43

O R 201430Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 688
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL PORT OF SPAIN 1368

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, JM, TD, EAID

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JAMAICA

REF: STATE 115152; PORT OF SPAIN 1324

- 1. U.S. ASSESSMENT OF JAMAICA'S FINANCIAL NEEDS WAS PASSED TO PERMANENT SECRETARY BARSOTTI, WHO SAID OUR ESTIMATE OF US\$200 MILLION WAS GREATER THAN JAMAICANS THEMSELVES HAD INDICATED THEY WOULD REQUIE, AND SITUATION WAS APPARENTLY EVEN MORE SERIOUS THAN GOTT HAD THOUGHT.
- 2. BARSOTTI SAID LEVEL OF FINANCING THEY ARE THINKING OF IS AROUND JAMAICAN DOLLARS 50 MILLION, WHICH WOULD BE TIED TO GOTT EXPORTS, THOUGH CABINET DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE. PETROLEUM EXPORTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR THIS FINANCING.

3. BARSOTTI NOTED THAT GOTT ALREADY HAS A LARGE STAKE IN JAMAICA, AND SOME TRINIDADIAN EXPORTERS HAVE REPORTED DIFFICULTY IN COLLECTING FOR THEIR SALES. THUS HE FEELS GOTT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO HELP, DESPITE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO. WITHOUT ASSISTANCE

FROM IMF AND OTHER DONORS, HOWEVER, JAMAICAN SITUATION WOULD NOT BE VIABLE, AND DISBURSEMENTS MUST START BY JUNE.

4. AT PRESENT, GOTT HAS US\$100 MILLION OUTSTANDING IN LOANS TO JAMAICA, WHICH IS ABOUT 11 PERCENT OF TOTAL GOTT EXTERNAL ASSETS. PAYMENT OF INTEREST HAS BEEN MADE ON TIME, BUT ONLY \$2 MILLION OF PRINCIPAL HAS BEEN REPAID.
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## Message Attributes

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Subject: POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JAMAICA

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, JM, TD, US

To: STATE Type: TE

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